National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Globalisation and climate change in Asia: The urban health impact

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Abstract:

Asia's economic development successes will create new policy areas to address, as the advances made through globalisation create greater climate change challenges, particularly the impact on urban health. Poverty eradication and higher standards of living both increase demand on resources. Globalisation increases inequalities and those who are currently the losers will carry the greatest burden of the costs in the form of the negative effects of climate change and the humanitarian crises that will ensue. Of four major climate change challenges affecting the environment and health, two-urban air pollution and waste management-can be mitigated by policy change and technological innovation if sufficient resources are allocated. Because of the urban bias in the development process, these challenges will probably register on policy makers' agenda. The second two major challenges-floods and drought-are less amenable to policy and technological solutions: many humanitarian emergency challenges lie ahead. This article describes the widely varying impact of both globalisation and climate change across Asia. The greatest losers are those who flee one marginal location, the arid inland areas, only to settle in another marginal location in the flood prone coastal slums. Effective preparation is required, and an effective response when subsequent humanitarian crises occur.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides, Wildfires

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Desert, Ocean/Coastal, Rural, Tropical, Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Urologic Effect, Other Health Impact

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Cholera, Leptospirosis, Vibrioses

Vectorborne Disease: Fly-borne Disease, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Fly-borne Disease: Leishmaniasis

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria, Viral Encephalitis, West Nile Virus

Tick-borne Disease: Plague

Zoonotic Disease: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Nipah Virus

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Upper Respiratory Allergy

Other Health Impact: heat stress

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☑

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content